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6,000 trees for biodiesel

SETIU: The Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) has been successful in growing 6,000 *Jarak Pagar* (*Jatropha Curcas*) trees. It is now ready to plant these trees on a large scale.

The pilot project to grow these trees, also known as the Barbados Nut, Purging Nut and Black Vomit Nut trees, began in 2009.

FRIM is planning to acquire a large piece of land from the Terengganu state government for the project.

Rosdi Koter, a research officer

at FRIM, said Terengganu had close to 71,000ha of unused coastal land which was able to withstand extreme heat, with 99% of the soil fused with silica.

Through the project, raw materials would be gathered for the production of biodiesel which would increase locals' income.

"These trees can be easily planted, and the saplings do not face any threat from pests.

"FRIM is willing to provide its expertise for the success of the project," he said. — Bernama